

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-G010**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management





# **Environmental Assessment**

## **DOI-BLM-UT-G010**

**Prepared by**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

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# Finding of No Significant Impact

## Environmental Assessment Enter NEPA Number via text entities - here

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts (per Environmental Assessment Enter NEPA Number via text entities - here), I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

### Mitigation Measures:

1. [Measure 1]
2. [Measure 2]
3. [Measure 3]

### Signatures:

Recommended by:

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[Recommender Name]	[Date]
[Recommender Title]	

Approved by:

---

[Approver Name]	[Date]
[Approver Title]	

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# Decision Record

## Compliance

[Describe Land Use Plan and other legal compliance here.]

## Selected Action

[Describe the action that will be taken here.]

## Compliance with NEPA:

[Describe the NEPA documentation that was conducted here.]

## Public Involvement:

[Describe any public participation that was conducted here.]

## Rationale:

[Describe the rationale for the decision here.]

## Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

[Insert appropriate appeal language here.]

## Authorizing Official:

---

[Enter name here]  
[Enter Title Here]

Date

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# **Chapter 1. Introduction**

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## **1.1. Identifying Information:**

### **1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:**

[Enter the information here.]

### **1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:**

[Give either/or a legal description or narrative description of the project location.]

### **1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:**

Lead Office - and number

[Enter office information here.]

### **1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:**

[Enter appropriate tracking number here.]

Case file number

### **1.1.5. Applicant Name:**

[Enter the applicants name here.]

## **1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:**

[Describe the purpose and need for the proposed action here.]

## **1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:**

[Describe the scoping, public involvement, and identified issues here.]

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## **Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives**

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## **2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:**

[Describe the Proposed Action here.]

## **2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:**

[Describe other reasonable alternatives here, including a "No Action" alternative.]

## **2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail**

[Describe other alternatives that were considered but not analyzed here.]

## **2.4. Conformance**

The EA is in conformance with the .

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## **Chapter 3. Affected Environment:**

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[Enter appropriate Affected Environment descriptions here.]

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## **Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:**

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[Describe the environmental affects here.]

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## **Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:**

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[Describe consultation efforts here.]

**Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Authorities for Consultation or Coordination</b>	<b>Findings &amp; Conclusions</b>
Enter Name		
Enter Name		

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## **Chapter 6. List of Preparers**

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[Enter the Preparers List here.]

**Table 6.1. List of Preparers**

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document

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# Appendix A. Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

**Project Title:**

**NEPA Log Number:**

**File/Serial Number:**

**Project Leader:**

**DETERMINATION OF STAFF:** (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
<b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b>				
NI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Minimum quantities of dust emissions are anticipated from vehicles associated with the managing of the livestock. The anticipated air quality impacts are encompassed within the Uinta Basin Air Quality Study (UBAQS) that was conducted in 2009. Overall, air quality in the Basin was modeled as being within attainment of the NAAQS. The 2012 horizon showed isolated modeled exceedances of the ozone NAAQS, which are thought to be residual effects from utilizing Wasatch Front monitors (which are 120 miles away in a non-attainment area) to calibrate the model. There are no regulatory monitors in or near the project area to verify and calibrate the results of the model. Although ozone formation from its component parts (NOx and VOCs) is a non-linear, photo-reactive process, it is anticipated that the incremental change from this project's alternatives would be so small as to be undetectable by both models and monitors.	Craig L Newman	3/30/2016

<b>Determination</b>	<b>Resource/Issue</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
NI	BLM Natural Areas	No BLM Natural Areas exist within the identified Project Area according to RMP and GIS review.	Bill Civish	2/29/2016
	Cultural: Archaeological Resources			
	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns			
NI	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No ACECs exist within the identified Project Area according to RMP and GIS review.	Bill Civish	2/29/2016
NI	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	No WSR exist within the identified Project Area according to RMP and GIS review.	Bill Civish	2/29/2016
NI	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	No WSA exist within the identified Project Area according to RMP and GIS review.	Bill Civish	2/29/2016
NI	Environmental Justice	No minatory or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affect(physically or economically) by the proposed action or	Craig L Newman	3/15/2016
NP	Farmlands (prime/unique)	Not preset as per Vernal GIS layerfiles and the 2008 Vernal RMP	Craig L Newman	3/15/2016
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	The proposed fence installation will have no known impact to Fire Management operations	Blaine Tarbell	3/9/2016
NI	Geology/Minerals/ Energy Production	The surface disturbance proposed would not impact geologic conditions in a significant way due to its very limited nature (i.e. would not induce a landslide).  Although the area is open to oil/gas leasing and mineral materials disposal, the project would have no economic impact on the resources and would not preclude their future development. The 2008 Vernal RMP identified no other mineral resources in the area.	Justin Snyder	3/4/2016

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Invasive Plants/ Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	Cheatgrass ( <i>Bromus tectorum</i> ) is located within the project area, and historic infestations of Canada thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) are nearby. The fence location is near an existing road, so it occurs within an area that is already disturbed, and expected surface disturbance from the proposed action is minimal. Following the VFO Surface Disturbing Weed policy requirements and recommendations, including pre-disturbance weed surveys and weed control, will mitigate all expected impacts from the proposed action.	Jessi Brunson	3/28/2016
NI	Lands/Access	<p>The proposed area is located within the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan area, which allows for oil and gas development with associated road, pipeline and power line rights-of-way. Current land uses, within the area identified in the proposed action and adjacent lands, consist of existing oil and gas development, wildlife habitat, recreational use, and sheep and cattle ranching. No existing land uses would be changed or modified by the implementation of the proposed action.</p> <p>The existing right-of-way holders in the project area were notified of the project.</p> <p>Master Title Plats have been reviewed for conflicts with Public water Reserves, or existing ROW holders. No Public Water Reserves were identified in the project area per the Master Title Plats.</p> <p>Access to the proposed fence project is via Uintah County Road (Jones Hole Road). The fence project would cross the following Uintah County Class D roads identified on the 2016 Uintah County Transportation map: The Class D road numbers are: 22503, 22503A, 100801B, 22504.</p> <p>The Uintah County Commissioners were contacted and as long as gates were installed at each road crossing with close the gate signs they had no issues with the proposed fence.</p> <p>Jones Hole Fish Hatchery was contacted they did not have any issues with the proposed fence near the Right of Way for the Snow Fences along Jones Hole Road.: UTU-0-141408, and UTU-65116.</p>	Margo Roberts	4/12/16

<b>Determina- tion</b>	<b>Resource/Issue</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
NI	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	No Lands with Wilderness Characteristics have been identified within the Project Area according to RMP and GIS review.	Bill Civish	2/29/2016
PI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	Should have positive impacts allowing for rotational grazing and reducing grazing time in individual pastures	Craig Newman	02/23/16
NI	Paleontology	A geologic map review, paleontological geodatabase search and field inspection (J.Snyder & R.Goshen on 6/4/2015) identified no significant fossils in the project area. See file for summary memo.	Justin Snyder	3/4/2016
NP	Plants: BLM Sensitive	No UT BLM sensitive plant species are present or expected in or near the proposed project area.	Jessi Brunson	3/18/2016
NP	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	No federally listed plant species are present or expected in or near the proposed project area.	Jessi Brunson	3/18/2016
NP	Plants: Wetland/Riparian	No wetland or riparian areas are present or expected in or near the proposed project area.	Jessi Brunson	3/28/2016
NI	Recreation	Where the temporary lay-down fence crosses the county roads a gate will be installed. Therefore the project will not impact recreation opportunities.	Bill Civish	2/29/2016
NP	Socio-Economics	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affect (physically or economically) by the proposed action or alternatives because none are present in or adjacent to the project area.	Craig L Newman	03/15/2016
NI	Visual Resources	This project is in VRM II which allows for management activities to be seen as long as it retains the existing character of the landscape. The temporary lay-down fence will not skyline a ridge and will be laid down when grazing allotment is being utilized.	Bill Civish	2/29/2016
NI	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,000 pounds would be used, produce, stored, transported or disposed of annually in association with the project. Trash and other waste materials would be cleaned up and removed immediately after completion of operations.	Craig L Newman	3/16/2016
NP	Water: Floodplains	Farmlands not present as per Vernal GIS Layerfiles and the 2008 Vernal RMP	Craig L Newman	3/15/2016



<b>Determina- tion</b>	<b>Resource/Issue</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
NI	Water:  Groundwater Quality	Although groundwater may be present at depth, the proposed disturbance is unlikely to impact it. The nearest water well, located in the NESW of Section 9, T2S, R24E, encountered water bearing stratum at a depth of 23 ft (see water right 45–806).  In addition, there are no EPA/State of Utah Drinking Water Source Protection Zones in the area.	Justin Snyder	3/4/2016
NP	Water:  Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The project should not affect hydrologic conditions	Craig L Newman	3/15/2016
NP	Water:  Surface Water Quality	The Project should not affect	Craig L Newman	3/15/2016
NP	Water:  Waters of the U.S.	There are no perennial streams or water bodies in the project area.	Craig L Newman	3/15/2016
NP	Wild Horses	The project are is not within any designated Wild Horse Herd Management areas	Dusty Carpenter	3/16/2016
PI	Wildlife:  Migratory Birds (including raptors)	Migratory birds would be present within the allotment during the grazing season. The new fence line and pasture rotation will be a change from current management.	Dixie Sadlier	3/1/2016
PI	Wildlife:  Non-USFWS Designated	Crucial deer and elk summer range has been identified by the LUP within the allotment. Grazing will occur during the summer months. The proposed fence will be “wildlife friendly” and should not inhibit migration patterns.	Dixie Sadlier	3/1/2016
PI	Wildlife:  Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	Is the proposed project in sage grouse PPH or PGH? Yes X No . The proposed fence line is within a PHMA. The fence line should allow for pasture rotation with the BLM portion being rested every other spring.	Dixie Sadlier	3/1/2016
NP	Woodlands/Forestry	Not present per review of GIS	David Palmer	3/31/2016

**FINAL REVIEW:**

<b>Reviewer Title</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			